

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

hardware resources used for image formation;

applications for performing processes on image formation; and

a platform that exists between the applications and the hardware resources, the platform including an Operating System (OS) and a least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call from at least one of the applications, wherein interprocess communication is performed between the control service and at least one of the applications,

the image forming apparatus further comprising, as one of the applications:

an information providing part configured to provide, to a client terminal, screen data used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses from among [[from]] a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network on the client terminal, and configured to store, in a storage unit, information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses; and

a print request part configured to distribute print data and a print request to one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, wherein, when a print request that has been received includes a name of print data and a function of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal, the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to the one or more of

the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses.

Claim 2 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information providing part sends screen data for inputting a print instruction to the client terminal; and

the print request part distributes the print data and the print request when receiving the print instruction from the client terminal.

Claim 3 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information providing part sends screen data used for uploading the print data to the client terminal; and

the image forming apparatus receives the print data when the print data is uploaded from the client terminal.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the screen data includes data for displaying a plurality of image forming apparatuses and corresponding places for each of the image forming apparatuses.

Claim 6 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the screen data includes data for displaying a plurality of image forming apparatuses and corresponding functions for each of the image forming apparatuses.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the storage unit.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print request part requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data.

Claim 10 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the print request part requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print request part comprises an address obtaining part for obtaining addresses of the one or more image forming apparatuses connected to a network; and wherein the print request part distributes the print data and the print request by using the addresses obtained by the address obtaining part.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the address obtaining part obtains the addresses from MIBs by using SNMP.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~the image forming apparatus further comprising hardware resources used for image forming~~

~~processes, and control services that perform processes of the system side including control of the hardware resources according to a request from an application executed in the image forming apparatus,~~

wherein the image forming apparatus is configured to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the at least one control ~~[[services]]~~ service, and the image forming apparatus includes the information providing part and the print request part as an application.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A print process method used in an image forming apparatus, the print process method comprising the steps of:

providing screen data used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses from among ~~[[from]]~~ a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network on the client terminal, and storing information including addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses; ~~[[and]]~~

distributing print data and a print request, by the image forming apparatus, to one or more image forming apparatuses, wherein when a print request is received that includes a name of print data and a function of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal, extracting one or more addresses of one or more image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and distributing the print data and a print request to the one or more image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses; and

performing interprocess communication between at least one control service and at least one application of at least one of the image forming apparatus which comprises:

hardware resources used for image formation;  
applications for performing processes on image formation; and  
a platform that exists between the applications and the hardware resources, the  
platform including an Operating System (OS) and a least one control service to control an  
execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call  
from at least one of the applications.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus sends screen data for inputting a print instruction to the client terminal, and distributes the print data and the print request in response to the print instruction from the client terminal.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus sends screen data used for uploading the print data to the client terminal, and receives the print data when the print data is uploaded from the client terminal.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the screen data includes data for displaying the plurality of image forming apparatuses and locations thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the screen data includes data for displaying the plurality of image forming apparatuses and functions thereof.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus stores in a memory information including addresses of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses, and

wherein the image forming apparatus distributes the print data and the print request by referring to the information stored in the memory.

Claim 21 (Original): The print process method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the print instruction includes an instruction for designating functions to be used for printing the print data, and

the image forming apparatus selects one or more image forming apparatuses that includes the designated functions from among the selected one or more image forming apparatuses, and distributes the print data and the print request to the one or more image forming apparatuses that includes the designated functions.

Claim 22 (Original): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus requests a printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data.

Claim 23 (Original): The print process method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the image forming apparatus requests the printing part of the image forming apparatus itself to print the print data by using a loop back address.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Original): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus obtains the addresses from MIBs by using SNMP.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The print process method as claimed in claim 14, ~~the image forming apparatus comprising hardware resources used for image forming processes, and control services that perform processes of the system side including control of the hardware resources according to a request from an application executed in the image forming apparatus,~~

wherein the image forming apparatus is configured to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the at least one control ~~[[services]]~~ service, and the application performs the providing, and the distributing.

Claims 27-28 (Canceled).

29. (New) A computer readable medium storing computer code to be executed on an image forming apparatus, the image forming apparatus comprising:

hardware resources used for image formation;  
applications for performing processes on image formation; and  
a platform that exists between the applications and the hardware resources, the platform including an Operating System (OS) and a least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call

from at least one of the applications, wherein interprocess communication is performed between the control service and at least one of the applications,

the computer readable medium comprising, as one of the applications:

an information providing program code unit configured to provide, to a client terminal, screen data used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses from among a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network on the client terminal, and configured to store, in a storage unit, information including addresses of one or more of the image forming apparatuses which have been selected by associating the information with functions of the selected one or more image forming apparatuses; and

a print request program code unit configured to distribute print data and a print request to one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, wherein, when a print request that has been received includes a name of print data and a function of an image forming apparatus from the client terminal, the print request part extracts one or more addresses of one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function included in the print request sent from the client terminal from among the selected one or more information apparatuses, and the print request part distributes the print data and a print request to the one or more of the plurality of image forming apparatuses having the function by specifying the extracted one or more addresses.